



02-15-05

PATENT
675002-2001

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : FANRONG ET AL.
Serial No. : 10/804,408
For : MOLECULAR TYPING OF GROUP B STREPTOCOCCI
Filed : MARCH 19, 2004
Examiner : CARLA J. MYERS
Art Unit : 1634

1 X 2201
2 X 2202

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination and issuance of Office Action, please amend the application without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

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01 FC:2201 100.00 DA
02 FC:2202 50.00 DA

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REMARKS

Claims 1- 35 are now pending. Claims 2, 16, 25 and 28 have been amended, and new claims 34 and 35 have been added, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents.

No new matter is added.

It is respectfully submitted that the new claims added herein are to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Support for the new claims is found throughout the specification.

This Preliminary Amendment additionally contains amendments to the specification. These amendments serve to place the application in better condition for examination and have corrected minor, obvious errors within the specification.

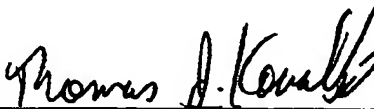
It is respectfully noted that in the currently amended Table 6 starting on page 58 in the specification, the underlined text under the column heading "Sequence" appears as such in the specification as filed. Thus the underlined text under the column heading "Sequence" is not a change introduced by this amendment.

It is also respectfully noted that the line numbers on page 2 of the present application are incorrectly numbered. The line numbers on page 2 recited in the current amendment refer to the actual line number counted continuously from the currently marked line 5 on page 2.

It is believed that no fee is required by entry of this paper, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fee, or credit any overpayment in fees, to Deposit Account 50-0320. Entry of this Preliminary Amendment and an early examination on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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By:



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